AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1   1. (Currently amended) An automated method for of composing a virtual
2 book from a set of electronically stored documentation comprising multiple
3 books, the method comprising:
4   automatically and under computer control parsing said electronically
5 stored documentation to gather meta-information representing physical attributes
6 of said electronically stored documentation;
7   automatically storing said meta-information in a database;
8   automatically identifying a plurality of topics based on said meta-
9 information and the chapter and section headings in the documentation, wherein
10 each said topic is associated with a portion of the documentation;
11   automatically determining a structure of the documentation, wherein said
12 structure indicates a hierarchy of said topics within the documentation;
13   automatically classifying each of said topics within one or more
14 categories;
15   receiving a subject for a virtual book;
16   automatically using said topics and said meta-information to composeing
17 said virtual book to include a subset of said topics that are relevant to said subject,
18 and each said relevant topic includes a pointer to said associated portion of the
19 documentation, wherein the complete virtual book can be stored for future access.

1   2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising searching said
2 topics for a set of topics relevant to said subject.

1	3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said relevant topics are
2	grouped in said virtual book by said categories.

1	4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein said relevant topics within a
2	first category are listed in the order of their relevance to said subject.

1	5. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein said relevant topics within a
2	first category are listed in the order they occur within the documentation.

1	6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising identifying index
2	entries in the documentation.

1	7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein said index entries are
2	included in said virtual book.

1	8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising sorting said
2	relevant topics according to their relevance to said topic.

1	9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said categories include one
2	or more of the set of: concept, task, example, reference and troubleshooting.

1	10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said composing comprises:
2	identifying a characteristic of a viewer of said virtual book; and
3	customizing said virtual book for the viewer on the basis of said
4	characteristic.

1	11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said characteristic is one
2	of the set of: employment role and level of experience.

1   12. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said characteristic

2   comprises a level of experience of the user and said customizing comprises

3   omitting one or more of said categories from said virtual book.

1   13. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said characteristic

2   comprises an employment role of the user and said customizing comprises

3   implementing said role as another category of said virtual book.

1   14. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method for of

2   generating a virtual electronic book from a set of electronic documentation

3   comprising multiple books stored in multiple files, comprising:

4   automatically parsing said electronic documentation to gather meta-

5   information representing physical attributes of said electronic documentation;

6   storing physical attributessaid meta-information of the multiple files in a

7   database;

8   automatically identifying topics based on said meta-information and the

9   chapter and section headings within the documentation, wherein each said topic

10   comprises a heading within one of the multiple files;

11   automatically associating unique identifiers with each of said topics;

12   automatically storing said topics in said database;

13   for each of said stored topics:

14   automatically storing in said database a reference to a first book containing

15   said topic;

16   automatically storing in said database a reference to a first file containing

17   said topic;

18   automatically storing in said database a reference to a parent topic of said

19   topic, if any, in the first book; and

20   automatically storing in said database a reference to a child topic of said

21   topic, if any, in the first book;

22   automatically categorizing each of said stored topics into one or more pre-

23   determined categories, wherein each of said categories represents a type of topic;

24   receiving a subject for a virtual book;

25   automatically searching said stored topics for topics relevant to the

26   subject;

27   automatically presenting said virtual book to a viewer, wherein said virtual

28   book comprises said relevant topics grouped according to said categories and said

29   meta-information; and

30   automatically storing said virtual book for future access, wherein the

31   complete virtual book can be stored.

1   15. (Currently amended) A computer readable storage medium storing

2   instructions that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform an

3   automated method for of composing a virtual book from a set of electronically

4   stored documentation comprising multiple books, the method comprising:

5   automatically parsing said set of electronically stored documentation to

6   gather meta-information representing physical attributes of said electronically

7   stored documentation;

8   automatically storing said meta-information in a database;

9   automatically identifying a plurality of topics based on said meta-

10   information and the chapter and section headings in the documentation, wherein

11   each said topic is associated with a portion of the documentation;

12   automatically determining a structure of the documentation, wherein said

13   structure indicates a hierarchy of said topics within the documentation;

14   automatically classifying each of said topics within one or more

15   categories;

16   receiving a subject for a virtual book;

17   automatically using said topics and said meta-information to composeing

18   said virtual book to include a subset of said topics that are relevant to said subject,

19   and each said relevant topic includes a pointer to said associated portion of the

20   documentation, wherein the complete virtual book can be stored for future access.

1   16. (Canceled).

1   17. (Currently amended) An apparatus for producing a virtual book,

2   comprising:

3   a set of electronic documentation files;

4   a parsing module configured to automatically gather meta-information

5   representing physical attributes of said electronic documentation;

6   a database configured to automatically store said meta-information;

7   a topic module configured to automatically identify a set of topics based

8   on said meta-information and the chapter and section headings within said

9   documentation, wherein each said topic comprises a heading appearing in said

10   documentation;

11   a structural analysis module configured to automatically determine a

12   hierarchy of said topics within said documentation;

13   a categorizer configured to automatically classify a first of said topics into

14   one or more predetermined categories;

15   a database configured to automatically store said topics, said hierarchy and

16   said classifications;

17   a processor configured to automatically produce a virtual book comprising

18   a subset of said set of topics from said topics and said meta-information, wherein

19   said subset of said topics is relevant to a subject of said virtual book; and

20   a storage device for automatically storing said virtual book, wherein the

21   complete virtual book can be stored.

1   18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising a network

2   server configured to present said virtual book to a user.

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1   19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising an index

2   module configured to assemble index entries referring to said relevant topics

3   within said documentation.

1   20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein said processor is further

2   configured to customize said virtual book on the basis of one of a role of a viewer

3   of said virtual book and a level of experience of the viewer.

1   21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein said categories include

2   one or more of the set of: concept, task, example, reference, troubleshooting, role

3   of a viewer of said virtual book and level of experience of the viewer.